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ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Proposal by the delegations of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela

Programme for the generation and transfer of biotechnologies and their sustainable use in the developing countries

Bases for action

The developing countries, with their rich biological diversity, have not profited from the recent advances in biotechnology, a field which has its foundation in that very diversity. Nor have they benefited from the economic potential of the sustainable use of their biodiversity, due to the application of investment and development models which not only restrict their access to research but also disregard the positive contributions made by the traditional knowledge and practices from which mankind has benefited.

Objectives

The object of this programme is to design and implement mechanisms for the generation and transfer of biotechnologies and their sustainable use and exploitation in the developing countries, for which purpose it is necessary to consider the following specific points:

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Identification and establishment of appropriate means for the generation and transfer of biotechnologies;

Strengthening of national institutions and promotion of prompt and growing international cooperation;

Exploitation of the genetic potential of species and achievement of their sustainable use;

Rapid training of highly qualified human resources in the developing countries.

Activities

(a) Promotion of the organization of national systems for the generation of biotechnologies that comprise government, academic and private institutions;

(b) Design and implementation of financial mechanisms promoting biotechnological research for the sustainable exploitation of biological diversity;

(c) Execution of programmes for training and exchange of knowledge on traditional biotechnologies;

(d) Research and development in respect of new technologies directed towards the sustainable exploitation of biological resources through international cooperation on favourable conditions for the countries that are rich in biological diversity;

(e) Promotion of exchanges of biotechnological information through channels for cooperation, particularly horizontal and regional;

(f) Improvement and strengthening of national, subregional and regional institutions through on-the-spot research into biological resources;

(g) Design and implementation of mechanisms for the training and participation of national scientists and the population in the generation and sustainable use of biotechnology;

(h) Development of biotechnological research programmes to guarantee environmental sanitation, health, food security and conservation of biological diversity;

(i) Design and implementation of mechanisms to resolve the current situation regarding intellectual property rights, which guarantee the protection of traditional farmers and native varieties and strains; and

(j) Creation of an endogenous capacity to evaluate, adopt and introduce biotechnologies in accordance with national needs and priorities.